

November 2019



**All Saints Day**

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*And much more!*

I can't believe it. It is time for the November edition of the Bobcat Buzz! I wanted to update you on our accreditation visit. Last month we had a team of 6 administrators and teachers that visited SMCS for accreditation! It was a great experience to show the improvements we have made since the last accreditation in 2012, and it was also great that they agreed with our report on our plans to continue making improvements.



The team commended and supported our campus goals in several areas:

- Catholic Identity - our students, faculty and families' dedication to service.
- Academics - specifically that our campus works to meet the needs of children individually within the areas of academics, faith, and service. They supported our notation that we would like to add a counselor to our faculty to support students when needed and to support our guidance program.
- Safety - the implementation of the Raptor System, the AI Phone and our dedication to ensure that all visitors are Safe Haven trained. They also mentioned that we continually look for ways to update safety.
- Technology - we continue to train teachers and students to integrate technology and will continue to work on technology and STREAM integration.

We will continue to work to update our technology, support our faith and dedication to service and review safety so we can keep our campus safe and secure! I will continue to keep you updated on what's going on. I really love this time of year! It's a time to reflect on all that I am thankful for: family, friends and faith! Thank you for being a part of the SMCS family! This Thanksgiving I will be thankful for our community of faith! May God bless you and your family!

  
**Mrs. Halbardier**





# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Date	Time	Activity
November 2	3:00pm	Children's Rosary - See <a href="#">page 6</a> for details
November 3	10:15am 2:00-3:30pm	First Sunday Mass - See <a href="#">page 4</a> for details First Practice for Children's Christmas Choir - See <a href="#">page 6</a>
November 4	4:30pm (Girls) 5:30pm (Boys)	Bobcat Basketball Games at Queen of Peace, Richwood
November 5	4:30pm (Girls) 5:30pm (Boys)	Bobcat Basketball Games vs. Holy Ghost - Cargill Hall
November 6	2:00pm	Early Dismissal
November 7	All Day	Red River Cantina Spirit Day Fundraiser - <a href="#">Flyer</a>
November 8	Morning	Deadline to Turn in Box of Joy Donations Yearbook Picture Retakes and Fall Sports Pictures
November 11	7:50am  4:30pm	Veteran's Day <i>Veterans and all military will be honored at morning prayer</i> Boys' Bobcat Basketball Game at St. Helen
November 13	10:00am	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to visit <a href="#">Dr. Franklin R. Chang Diaz and the Ad Astra Rocket Lab</a>
November 15		Cat in the Hat Visit
November 16	9:00am-4:00pm	Chess Tournament - Hyde Elementary
November 18	6:00pm	School Board Meeting - Library
November 19	4:30pm	Girl's Bobcat Basketball Game at St. Christopher
November 20		Bay Area Houston Theater Dancers Visit Grades 3-5
November 20-22		Book Fair - See <a href="#">page 5</a> for details
November 22	Lunchtime	Grandparent Luncheon - See <a href="#">page 4</a> for details
November 25-29		Thanksgiving Break
December 1	10:15am	First Sunday Mass - See <a href="#">page 4</a> for details
December 4	2:00pm 7:00pm	Early Dismissal Advent Penance Service at St. Mary Catholic Church
December 5	8:00-9:00am 4:30pm (Girls) 5:30pm (Boys)	Junior High Science Fair Projects on Display - Cargill Hall Bobcat Basketball Games at True Cross
December 6	8:00-9:00am	Junior High Science Fair Projects on Display - Cargill Hall

**Check the online calendar at [stmarylc.org](http://stmarylc.org) for the most up-to-date information.**

<i>Week</i>	<i>Class Leading Morning Prayer</i>	<i>Class Readers at Friday Mass</i>	<i>Class Singing at Friday Mass</i>
November 4-8	Mrs. Whatley's Kindergarten	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades
November 11-15	Ms. Richardson's Kindergarten	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
November 18-22	Mrs. Brummett's Pre-K4	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
December 2-6	Mrs. Gilmore's Pre-K4	TBD	TBD



## **“Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve” Taken to Heart by Alumna**

“They keep coming back because they really like the kids,” says Alyssa Anderson, St. Mary class of 2016, of the high school students that spend Monday afternoons at St. Mary tutoring students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. They are volunteers participating in Alyssa’s “Bobcat Buddies” program, which started last spring. It is a way for Alyssa, and several other local high school students, to experience the joys of service.

Alyssa’s efforts began as part of an assignment in her junior AP English class to do an extended project that would make a difference in the local community. This program resonated with both groups because of the personal connection. She says the tutors have “really built a bond with the kids” at St. Mary. And the younger students look up to their tutors and ask Alyssa about them whenever they see her.

Although the school assignment was just for one year, Alyssa enjoyed the tutoring last spring and planned to continue it herself this fall.



She was pleased when several of the high school kids involved began asking if they could keep doing it alongside her. Alyssa started with one partner but now has 4-5 high schoolers who regularly spend Monday afternoons on the St. Mary campus helping students here.

“I think it’s good to connect public and private school kids,” Alyssa says. Both groups overcome stereotypes they may have about each other, and the older St. Mary students can meet people they will attend high school with in the future, a valuable connection when moving from a school this size to the high schools in CCISD. In fact, Alyssa hopes to implement some ideas about other ways to smooth the transition from St. Mary junior high to public high school.

Alyssa will graduate from Clear Creek High School next May and plans to attend Stephen F. Austin State University to work toward a nursing degree. She is putting plans in place for the Bobcat Buddies program to continue next year.

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

Help SMCS with our Thanksgiving Food Drive! Donations will stock the St. Mary Church Food Pantry. We are looking for specific donations this year to help with the Food Pantry needs.

- **Box Potatoes**
- **Pancake Mix**
- **Peanut Butter Jars**
- **Box Mac and Cheese**
- **Canned Tuna**



Kroger/HEB Gift Cards are always appreciated!

**Children who bring in items on Fridays will bring them to Mass for the offertory. Donations welcome all month at the front office as well!**



**November 3 & December 1**  
**10:15am Mass**

Students who attend Mass wearing full dress uniform will earn **free dress the following Monday**. Sign in at the table in the narthex when you arrive. There is a section reserved for school families in the back, but you may sit anywhere in the church. After the Prayers of the Faithful, students gather in the back for the Presentation of the Gifts as a group.



## Grandparent Luncheon

**Friday, November 22**

A special lunch will be catered by Kelley's Country Cooking on Friday, November 22. Grandparents and/or other family members are invited to eat lunch on campus.

Here is further information about the day:

- Lunch **order form** is due by **November 19 at 3pm**. Teachers will hand out tickets for the lunches you ordered on the day of the luncheon.
- Guests arriving for lunch must sign in at the front of the school. Safe Haven training is strongly encouraged for all visitors.
- Families with multiple students may request to eat lunch together at the youngest sibling's lunch time. Please notify teachers ahead of time.
- Students may leave with their grandparents after their scheduled lunch. Please let your student's teacher know in advance if they will be leaving early. Also, make sure to sign all students out through the front office.
- Don't forget to visit the book fair in the library!



**IT'S FAST! IT'S FURIOUS! IT'S A BLIZZARD OF BOOKS!**

# BOOK FAIR IS COMING SOON!



**NOVEMBER 21, 8:15AM TO 4:00PM**

**NOVEMBER 22, 8:15AM TO NOON**

- ❖ Click [here](#) to sign up to help out!
- ❖ Teacher Wish Lists are available in the library.
- ❖ Access the fair [online](#) to preview the offerings and make your list, or to shop from home!

This year Scholastic is offering parents a new way to pay. Click on the BOOK FAIR eWALLET link to find out more!



The fair will be held in the library. Cash, checks, credit card, and eWallet payments accepted. Remember to add 8.25% tax.

## 2019 District Champions!



Congratulations to our varsity volleyball team players and coaches for winning the Division Championship! We had another undefeated season this year! Way to go Bobcats!!



## St. Mary Spring Gala April 18, 2020




Please consider signing up for a committee to help St. Mary with your time and talent:

- ♥ Venue
- ♥ Décor
- ♥ Graphic Design
- ♥ DJ/Music
- ♥ Ticket Sales
- ♥ Photography
- ♥ Marketing
- ♥ Setup & Cleanup
- ♥ Sponsorships
- ♥ "Learn the Ropes"
- ♥ Raffle
- ♥ "Odds & Ends"
- ♥ Catering & Bar
- ♥ Event Director
- ♥ Guest List

All are welcome to join the next Gala meeting. Watch for a meeting time to be announced soon! Contact [Mrs. Halbardier](#) for more information.



## Children's Rosary Prayer Group



The Children's Rosary Prayer Group is a lay prayer group for children between the ages of 4-14. Parents and other adults are encouraged to attend and serve as special "helpers" of the group. Through prayer of the Rosary, Our Lady will guide our young people while sanctifying our families and parish. We pray the Rosary in the chapel on the **first Saturday of each month at 3:00pm**. The next Children's Rosary will be on **November 2**.

# 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STEPS FOR STUDENTS 5K RUN/WALK

## February 15, 2020

**Fundraising Goal: \$15,000** to support afterschool programs, including microphones for the Spring production of the Little Mermaid Jr.


**Go to [www.steps4students.org](http://www.steps4students.org) to register today!**

This year, St. Mary Catholic School is launching a Steps for Students Incentive program for students and families! We have several incentives to boost participation and pledges:

**Incentives:**

- Classes with **100% class participation** will choose either a Pizza Party, Ice Cream Party or Donut Party.
- Top Fundraising Boy and Girl** will each get a \$25 gift card and 5 free dress passes.
- Individual Students who raise....
  - \$25**-Will get an Ice Cream Pass.
  - \$50**-Will get a Taco Tuesday Lunch on February 18.
  - \$100**-Will get a Movie and Pajama Pass.
  - \$200**-Will get to participate in a Pizza Party and Open Gym Pass after school for February 21.

We will also have a **tailgate party** to prepare for the event on February 14. Anyone registered can join us as we walk around campus!



**Watch D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students) are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer at our school. They work alongside the teacher and actively engage with the students. You can volunteer for a half day or full day at the school. Must be Safe Haven trained! For more information or to volunteer contact [Mrs. Halbardier](#).**

## Children's Christmas Choir



**All children and youth of the parish, ages 7 and up, are invited to join our famous Children's Christmas Choir. Practices will be held on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-3:30pm in the church. The first practice will be on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our Children's Christmas Choir will sing God's praises at the 4:30pm Mass on December 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information call **John Garza at (281) 332-3031.****

# Have you seen our flamingos?



To raise money for their "Learning & Living U.S. History" trip to Washington, D.C. in May, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are shuttling a flock of flamingos around town. At

night they need a lawn to rest on, and yours may be next! Kids are so delighted to wake up and see a flock of pink birds on the lawn in the morning!



Want to bring them to your house or send them to someone else's yard? A donation will ensure that the birds alight at the address you specify. Place your order in the school office.

  
**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**  
*got talent*  
 THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

This year the archdiocese is hosting "Catholic Schools Got Talent," a show highlighting talents of our Catholic school students in grades 4-8! There will also be an Art Walk at the show. **Acts must submit audition video and all signed paperwork by 12:00am, November 22.** The final event will take place **Saturday, February 2**, at St. Pius X High School. Click on the following links for [guidelines](#) and the [audition application](#).

More information can be found at <https://www.archgh.org/csgt>

Questions? Contact [Mrs. Miller](#).



## Resources

**ParentsWeb** (FACTS, grades, lunch ordering)  
[stmy-tx.client.renweb.com/pwr](http://stmy-tx.client.renweb.com/pwr)

**Teacher's Friday Letters**  
<http://stmarylc.org/createnews/important-links-for-fast-access/>

**Safe Haven Training**  
[galvestonhouston.cmgconnect.org](http://galvestonhouston.cmgconnect.org)

**St. Mary Facebook Page**  
[www.facebook.com/stmarylc](http://www.facebook.com/stmarylc)

**Bobcat Buzz Archives**  
[stmarylc.org/the-bobcat-buzz](http://stmarylc.org/the-bobcat-buzz)

## Box of Joy Campaign

It is time to turn in your Box of Joy! SMCS is an area drop-off location this year. Drop-off dates and times:

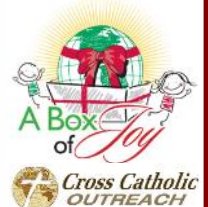
**November 8, 10:00am-2:00pm**

**November 9, 8:00am-12:30pm**

Student box donations should be returned to the school by **Friday, November 8.**

**How should you fill your Box of Joy?** Gift suggestions include small toys, hygiene products, school supplies, hard candy, etc. For each Box of Joy, a \$9.00 donation is also appreciated to cover S&H overseas and life-saving ministry costs.

**Volunteers needed for packing and shipping!**  
 Contact [Janet Ellison](#) for details.



## Christmas Programs 2019 Save the Dates!

★ **December 12 - 6:30pm, Christmas Program (PreK3 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)**

★ **December 13 - 6:30pm, Orchestra Concert**

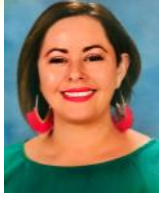


## THANK YOU

- ... **Deacon Russ** for the Blessing of the Animals
- ... **All Volunteers** who worked at the Bazaar and/or contributed cake and toy donations
- ... **Mrs. Richards** for organizing the Ice Cream and Pizza Social and to other parent and student volunteers
- ... **Mrs. Robb and all Room Parents** for organizing and running the Halloween Carnival
- ... **Mr. McCall and Dr. Tambling** for being great WatchDOGS
- ... **Mrs. Schwanbeck** for co-coaching our volleyball teams
- ... **Everyone** who came out and supported the 8<sup>th</sup> grade D.C. car wash
- ... **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students** for volunteering at the Galveston Food Bank
- ... **Mayor Pat Hallisey** for speaking to and visiting with our students, and to **Mrs. Murphy** for organizing his visit
- ... **Police Chief Gary Ratliff** for speaking with our preK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students, and for **Mrs. Gagnon** for facilitating his visit
- ... **The Bartels** for donating a programmable robot to our Engineering Club
- ... **Candy Hattingh** with the Advocacy Center for Children for presentations to our students
- ... **All Parent Volunteers** who have volunteered to drive and/or chaperone for field trips

## Teacher Spotlight

**Mrs. Karla Mellado**



**Teaches:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education

Mrs. Mellado joined St. Mary this year, her seventh year as a teacher. Previously she taught special education as well as PreK through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students at Holy Family and St. Pius V Catholic schools. Born in Mexico, she attended Catholic school there before coming to the United States at age 15. She wanted to work in Catholic education because it allows her to “help kids not only with learning academics but also learning about our faith.” Mrs. Mellado enjoys photography, crafting, and spending time with her husband and two children, especially going to Astros and Texan games. She also looks forward to pursuing a Masters degree in Psychology to augment her skills as a teacher.



## Happy Birthday

**November 4**

**Mrs. Donaldson**

**November 19**

**Mrs. Bartosh**

**November 20**

**Mrs. Sisson**

**November 29**

**Mrs. Miller**